

Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1864

Weekly National Intelligencer.

By GALE & SEATON.
JAMES C. WELLS, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
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FRIENDLY ADMONITIONS.

It will be remembered by our readers that Major Gen. FREMONT, in his letter accepting the nomination of the Cleveland Convention, takes especial exception, among other things, to "the disregard of constitutional rights and the violations of personal liberty" which have marked the conduct of the Administration during the war. After citing the paragraph in which he sums up a series of such accusations against President Lincoln on this score, the New York Commercial Advertiser says:

"Confessedly these are truths, as the best Republican journals have over and over again admitted. The three journals so assert, and that there is a fraction of the Republican party bold and unpartisan enough to proclaim the same thing, is a most healthful symptom, and seems to presage that political millennium when faction and party shall be forgotten in the single purpose of promoting the honor and dignity of the country, and when patriotism shall have its perfect work, and not be most pronounced when most in office."

And that leading organ of the Republican party, the Evening Post of the same city, refers to the same topic in the following terms, while stating that it does not share Gen. Fremont's apprehensions as to the extent or permanence of the evils it deplors in common with him:

"We agree with Gen. Fremont that the Administration has wandered into a good many dubious and doubtful paths, and that Mr. Lincoln, though he may not have been responsible for it personally, is yet to be held to an official responsibility. We agree with him, also, that any honest body of men who are so minded have a perfect right to unite in rebuking these errors. We have certainly ourselves assumed many opportunities of warning the country against the facts to which we refer, and on the ground that their departure from correct principles and of their tendency to alienate the popular support."

And in the course of a debate that occurred in the Senate a few days ago on the internal revenue bill, Mr. Senator HARRIS, of New York, and whom that body comprises no member more generally respected for his candor and ability, took occasion to utter a word of patriotic warning to the same effect. The bill, as it stood, authorized any assistant assessor of the internal tax to issue a warrant for the arrest of any person failing or refusing to comply with the injunctions of the law under this head. Mr. Harris very properly moved to amend the bill so as to provide for the usual process of law in effecting the arrest of a delinquent.

His amendment was as follows:

"Such summons may be served by any assistant assessor of the district. In case any person so summoned shall neglect or refuse to obey such summons according to its exigency, or to give testimony, or answer interrogatories as required, it shall be lawful for the assistant assessor to cause the facts to be applied to the judge of the district court or a commissioner authorized to perform the duties of such judge at chambers, for an attachment against such person as for a contempt. It shall be the duty of such judge or commissioner to hear such application, and, if satisfactory proof be made, to issue an attachment directed to some proper officer for the arrest of such person; and, upon his being brought before him, to proceed to a hearing of the case, and upon such hearing the judge or commissioner shall have power to make such order as he shall deem proper to enforce obedience to the requirements of the summons and punish such person for his default or disobedience."

And the propriety of this amendment was enforced by Mr. Harris with the following judicious reflections:

"I confess, Mr. President, I am a little disappointed in finding this proposition resisted by the chairman of the Committee on Finance. I had thought that having conceived a way for punishing delinquents under the provisions of this bill without any violation of the ordinary rules of law in respect to the arrest and punishment of individuals, he would have been quite willing to accept it. Now, sir, I confess that I am very much opposed to allowing arrests by executive officers; I think we are familiarizing ourselves quite too much to the idea of the executive officer, when he thinks an individual has been guilty of a contempt of his authority, may, without process of law, take that individual and carry him through the country to find a court. I desire never to see such a thing as this in this country. It is trying with him the liberty of the citizen unnecessarily, in my judgment. But if the Senator from Maine thinks it fit to retain this provision, and to authorize an assistant assessor, when he thinks a party has been guilty of contempt, to arrest him himself without judicial process, without applying to any judicial tribunal, I shall not object to it; but it seems to me it is far better to do this in case just what is done in ten thousand other cases where a person has been guilty of default or any delinquency, to apply to a judicial officer for process of arrest. It can be done without difficulty. It is done every day in other cases. Why not do it in this?"

The Senate concurred with Mr. Harris in his view of the matter and adopted his amendment.

We have cited these several expressions of opinion, all emanating from Republican sources, for the purpose of showing that the objections brought against the Administration for its exceptional conduct in this matter are not inspired by mere partisan rancor, but are shared by all thoughtful and candid men without regard to political discriminations. If there are those who make a mere partisan use of such objections from a desire to embarrass the Administration rather than from a desire to correct its abuses in the interest of the country, it is evident that such sinister purposes would be best counteracted by avoiding all occasion of offence on this score to either political friends or political opponents.

GOVERNOR CORWIN.

We have seen some conjectures in various quarters to the effect that Mr. CORWIN, our present esteemed Minister to Mexico, was favorable to the success of Imperial Government in that country. We have Gov. Corwin's authority for saying that he never entertained nor expressed an opinion favorable to the principle of forcible foreign intervention in Mexico. He has thought, and has so expressed himself often, that Maximilian, or any other power to which the Mexican people would submit, who could give them good and stable government and restore domestic tranquility, would be a great benefactor to Mexico. His official position and that of his Government has been and is one of perfect neutrality between the contending Powers in Mexico.

"POLITICAL EQUALITY."

"The absolute equality of all men before the law" is one of the mottoes and devices by which the leaders of the movement that culminated in the Cleveland Convention are in the habit of pointing their most effective adjectives. If by this maxim they mean that every human being is entitled to equal protection in the enjoyment of the civil rights secured by the laws of the land, they undoubtedly utter nothing more than a truism. But if they intend by this phrase that all men should enjoy an equality of political privileges, it is evident that they make the premise of their syllogism altogether too vague to justify the logical predicate which they derive from it. When the "absolute equality of all men" is affirmed to be a good and true doctrine, it is meant to signify that "the absolute equality" of all women and children is equally a matter of natural right under this head? If not, why not? For if, in respect of political privileges, there may properly be discriminations founded on considerations of sex or age, it is obvious that this whole question of political privilege passes from the sphere of natural and universal right into the province of human convention and arrangement, according to some conceived rules of right and propriety dependent on other elements than a mere computation of polls. Equality of civil rights under the law which ascertains and appoints the status of every subject of government is one thing; equality of political privileges as respects the right of suffrage, eligibility to office, &c. is quite another and a different thing, though, from the confusion of speech which prevails in the use of these terms, it would seem that there is in many minds no little confusion of ideas on the subject. It is no violation of civil equality or of natural justice to deny equality of political privileges to those who are really disqualified by any cause, whether it be by their sex, their age, or other incapacity for the wholesome exercise of such privileges. Even among the privileged political class all voters are not equally eligible to all offices in the United States, but we have never heard this fact urged as being a violation of "the absolute equality of all men before the law," which, however, it must be held and considered to be, if this maxim portends all that its literal terms convey. But if those who use it as a party watchword could be brought to analyze the sense of their language, they would probably find that under the guise of uttering a very profound philosophical truth they succeed only in enunciating a very shallow and illogical fallacy. It is to be observed that many among those who advocate and those who oppose the policy of negro suffrage betray an equal narrowness of understanding in the grounds on which they base their respective opinions. For, in the case of many among the adherents of each party on this subject, the opinions which they severally hold are nothing more or better than a prejudice—on the part of those who oppose the policy, a prejudice against the negro, inspired by a feeling of mere caste, which is as senseless as it is unjust, and on the part of those who espouse the doctrine as one universally true, a prejudice in favor of the negro which, in its desire to confer all possible political privilege upon him, without regard to his present qualifications to enjoy them, ignores the whole theory on which the practical exercise of those privileges is based by the State. Those who cheapen the elective franchise, by lowering the standard of qualification necessary to its exercise, invert the order of true reform, which consists, as has been often said, in levelling up and not in levelling down.

Our Republican contemporaries, in giving a place to the proceedings of the Cleveland Convention, for the Presidency, accompany them with observations that are, so far as they have met our eye, universally respectful to the purposes and motives of the men who participated in that political assemblage. We have not yet met any direct imputation on the patriotism or loyalty of those who have thus been the first to place themselves in opposition to the re-election of the present incumbent, and to a continuance for another Presidential term of the principles and policies which have marked the course of the Administration. Indeed there are Republican journals, like the New York Evening Post, which find in the action of the Cleveland Convention nothing more than a natural and justifiable expression of "certain popular discontents with the Administration." To this effect that journal says:

"The whole significance of the Convention at Cleveland lies in the fact that it expresses certain popular discontents with the Administration. It is not to be denied that its arbitrary arrests, its suppression of journals, its practical abandonment of the Moore doctrine, have produced a wide and deep feeling of apprehension and disapproval. The ambition of the nation at any rate without in the slightest degree infringing their spirit. The masses of the people, who feel so keenly that their only security and happiness depends upon the rigid observance of all those guarantees of natural rights and liberties which are the peculiar glory of our State and Federal Constitutions, are jealous of the slightest appearance of a departure from them, and ever ready to vindicate them by their suffrages. As an expression of this feeling the proceedings at Cleveland ought to be heeded; but as a political party manifestation it amounts to very little more than an announcement of the private opinions of so many individuals."

THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION.

From the Daily Intelligencer of Tuesday.

We need not remind the reader that this is the day appointed for the meeting of the Republican National Convention, charged with the duty of nominating candidates to be supported for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. The New York Evening Post, one of the most intelligent organs of its party, ventures the remark, in prospect of the Convention, that "Any observer of political events, possessed of the slightest sagacity, might write its history beforehand, declare the names that will be put in nomination, and anticipate the very words of the 'platform.'" He would say that Mr. Lincoln will be re-nominated, with Dix or Dickinson as the second man, and that the entire policy of the Administration will be approved in the formal but emphatic phrases which are customary on such occasions."

The reasons why Mr. Lincoln will be re-nominated are, according to the Post, partly sentimental and partly mercenary, according to the different characters of men. To this effect our contemporary says:

"The reasons why Mr. Lincoln will be re-nominated are twofold. In the first place, he is popular with the 'plain people,' who believe him honest, with the rich people, who believe him safe, with the soldiers, who believe him their friend, and with religious people, who believe him to have been specially raised up for this crisis; and, in the second place, because many of the thieves and corrupt scoundrels of the political arena, who know the fact of his popularity, have eagerly attached themselves to the car of his success. Both kinds are fully persuaded that he deserves re-nomination. The former, even if they are not, have borne the brunt of four years of war, he ought to enjoy the sweets of four years of peace; and the other for the more selfish motive that a change might disturb their hold of the papillary duties which they have found so nutritious and satisfying. The latter, indeed, will insist upon his re-nomination at once, even if the former should not, as well as of his present popularity, should be disposed to listen to the councils of wisdom, and postpone the political campaign until the military campaign has become more decisive."

We are not familiar with the *personnel* of the Convention which meets in Baltimore to-day, but as our enlightened contemporary informs us that the only question between the two classes into which it divides the President's supporters is one which relates solely to the expediency of making any nomination at all at the present critical juncture, and that on this question the honest friends of Mr. Lincoln, if they are wise, will take one side, while "the thieves and corrupt scoundrels of the political arena" will take the other, the Post will soon be in a condition to pronounce which of these two parties has the preponderance in the representative body of the Republican organization.

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Our Republican contemporaries, in this assigning to the Cleveland Convention the useful function of giving expression to "certain popular discontents," and in avowing the opinion that to this effect its proceedings "ought to be heeded," proceeds to urge the following reasons why prudent men should not be in haste to mark out the programme of political operations with regard to the next Presidency:

"But this is not, in our opinion, a proper time for opening the political campaign. We desire to see all party operations and movements postponed until the military campaign which Gen. Grant has so brilliantly begun has closed. On the results of that, it must be clear to the wisest capacity, the character and direction of our future political movements must greatly depend. Should Grant meet with disaster, another year of war, and other consequences scarcely to be limited at this time, must follow; but should he be successful, the single duty before the public then will be to repair the damages of the revolution, and not our civil institutions, by the carrying out of the rebellion, and on stronger foundations. In either event, the people should be allowed the last moment to choose the men who are to be entrusted with the high and difficult tasks of the crisis."

We have hoped, therefore, all along, that no party nominations would be made until the autumn. We have hoped that by that time the way would be clear for a nomination which should conciliate the good will of all patriotic men; and that, with common accord, and by one common effort, the republic would be placed in the new channels which the rebellion has dug for it, to sail triumphantly onward in the career of universal freedom, justice, and order. Our system of government, in its proper scope and interpretation, is the most beautiful and beneficent that was ever devised; what defects it has are likely to be corrected by the carrying out of the rebellion; but the fundamental principles, the assertion of human rights as the main end of all government, and above the interpretation of any government—not State rights, not as an element of dangerous antagonism to the Federal power, but as a necessary counterpoise to an oppressive concentration of all powers in the hands of a few, and the principle of national power, peace, and prosperity—are never to be relinquished. On these essential points we believe the country can be rallied unanimously; and we deprecate all premature and hasty party movements, and particularly all movements made in the interests of special classes that are likely to interfere in the accomplishment of this desirable and noble end."

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CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1864.

In the SENATE a resolution was offered by Mr. McDUGALL instructing the Committee on Foreign Relations to inquire what legislative action is necessary in regard to the reciprocity treaty with Great Britain, and that the committee also inquire and report upon the commercial results thereof so far. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. FOSTER offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Pensions to inquire into the necessity of relief to the families of the colored soldiers in the service of the United States recently massacred at Fort Pillow. The resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. CONNESS the House bill to expedite the settlement of land titles in California (at San Francisco and other points) was taken up and passed.

The bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to stipulate for the release from attachment or other process of property claimed by the United States was passed.

A bill in relation to Professors of the West Point Academy was also passed. It simply relieves them from liability to military orders.

The joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Lieut. Col. Joseph Bailey, acting engineer Nineteenth Army Corps, was taken up, and after the adoption of an amendment striking out the clause authorizing a gold medal to be struck, was adopted.

The bill to empower the Superintendent of the Society of the Maryland Annual Conference to hold property in the District of Columbia, under the will of the late William Doughty, was passed.

The consideration of the bill increasing the internal revenue occupied the remainder of the day's session, which (a recess having been taken in the afternoon) continued till half past nine o'clock at night.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES the contested election case from the first district of Missouri—Knox vs. Blair—was called up by Mr. DAWES, and afterwards postponed for one week.

On motion of Mr. MORRILL, the House then took up the amended tariff bill, with the understanding that it should be regularly debated during the day's sitting, (and also during a night session, which was ordered,) and afterwards be discussed under the five minutes rule.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, in explaining the bill, said he had no idea the war would be protracted a moment beyond the annihilation of the rebel army. The primary object of the bill was to increase the revenue, and at the same time culture and nurture domestic products, from which we will draw a larger amount of revenue.

Mr. COX, of Ohio, delivered a speech, in which he argued that the bill would be detrimental to the Western States, whilst it would benefit the iron interests of Pennsylvania and the manufacturers of New England.

Mr. GRINNELL, of Iowa, made a speech in favor of the bill.

Mr. F. WOOD, of New York, characterized it as a crude and improper measure.

The House adjourned at about 9½ o'clock.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1864.

In the SENATE a memorial was presented by Mr. MORGAN from the New York Chamber of Commerce in favor of the bill establishing a navy yard at New London, Connecticut. Also, by Mr. WILSON, a memorial setting forth that a great many disasters in our army result from the use of intoxicating drinks, and asking some remedy from Congress. They were laid on the table.

Mr. CARLILE from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the House bill extending for five years the time for the completion of the Marquette and Ontonagon railroad, in Michigan; which was passed.

Mr. VAN WINKLE called up the bill to prevent and punish the counterfeiting of the coins of the United States, and it was passed.

Mr. HOWARD, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back the bill to amend the act to facilitate commerce between the Atlantic and Pacific States by telegraph and otherwise, with an amendment.

Mr. HENDRICKS called up the bill for the relief of the State of Wisconsin, paying her the five per cent on reserved public lands on her borders, and it was discussed till the close of the morning hour.

The consideration, as in Committee of the Whole, of the internal revenue bill, was resumed, and occupied almost the entire sitting. The issue of taxation which elicited the most discussion were those relating to spirituous liquors, cigars, and tobacco. An amendment was adopted to increase the tax on cigars over the rates proposed in the bill; the tax on tobacco was permitted to stand at thirty-five cents per pound; and one or more of the amendments proposed in reference to the whiskey tax are still undetermined. The Senate remained in session till 10 o'clock at night.

The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES laid on the table a resolution, reported by Mr. DAWES, from the Committee on Elections, which proposed to pay mileage and salary to Messrs. McHenry, of Kentucky, and Birch, of Missouri, who unsuccessfully contested the seats of Messrs. Yeaman and King, respectively, up to the time their claims were decided by the House. It was laid on the table by a vote of yeas 66, nays 59.

A bill was passed amendatory of the act heretofore passed granting alternate sections of lands to Michigan for railroad purposes.

Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1865, and the consideration of the same was postponed till next Wednesday.

Mr. SMITH asked leave to offer a resolution that, "in order to enable the doorknobs to clean the ventilators and prepare the hall for warm weather," the House, the Senate consenting, adjourn until Monday, the 13th instant. Objection was made.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole and resumed the consideration of the tariff bill, which was discussed on proposed amendments until the hour of recess.

Among the amendments adopted was one reducing the duty proposed on molasses from sugar-cane to eight instead of twelve cents a gallon.

Another amendment provides that all imitations of brandy or spirits, or of wines imported by any name whatever, shall be subject to the highest rates of duty provided for the genuine article, respectively intended to be represented, and in no case less than one dollar a gallon.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1864.

Mr. GRIMES presented a memorial from the Levy Court of Washington, praying for the passage of a bill authorizing them to lay a direct tax upon the people of the county to meet their portion of the Government tax under the act of Congress of August, 1861, and introduced a bill in accordance with the memorial. He also introduced a bill to amend the act of May 17, 1862, incorporating the Washington and Georgetown Railroad. They were both referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. BERMAN called up the bill providing that the second regiment, third brigade, Ohio volunteer militia, mustered into the service of the United States, at Cincinnati, on the 4th day of September, 1862, notwithstanding irregularity may have occurred in the manner of their muster into the service of the United States, be paid for the time the officers and men were in the service, respectively, after being so mustered—not, however, to exceed the period of thirty days. The bill was passed.

Mr. HOWARD called up the joint resolution to extend for five years the time for the reversion to the United

States of the lands granted by Congress to aid in the construction of a railroad from Pere Marquette to Flint, and or the completion of said road; and it was passed.

The bill to pay Wisconsin her five per cent on the reserved public lands in her borders came up as the unfinished business, and it was discussed until the expiration of the morning hour.

The consideration of the internal revenue bill was then resumed, and occupied the Senate the remainder of the sitting. Among the amendments adopted was one, offered by Mr. COLLAMER, exempting from the bank tax such saving banks as receive deposits solely for the purpose of lending them for depositors, and having no fixed capital.

The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, after hearing some personal explanations by Mr. GARFIELD, Mr. SPALDING, and Mr. JENCKES, in reference to a debate on Friday on the proposed bankrupt law, went into Committee of the Whole and resumed the consideration of the tariff bill, to which many additional amendments were made. The Committee then rose and reported the bill to the House, which concurred in the amendments and passed the bill, yeas 81, nays 26. The House then adjourned.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1864.

In the SENATE a report was made by Mr. HENDRICKS, from the Committee on Public Lands, recommending that the bill for a railroad land grant to the Territories of Dakota and Montana be postponed until next session, as the committee could not give it due attention. The report was agreed to. Mr. HENDRICKS, from the same committee, reported a bill for the sale of lots in the Fort Crawford Reservation in Iowa.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution requesting the President, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate any recent information he has in relation to the slave trade to Cuba, and what efforts are being made for its suppression. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. CARLILE called up the bill to grant lands to Wisconsin to aid in the construction of a ship canal from the head of Green Bay to Lake Michigan. It grants 100,000 acres of land for that purpose. Mr. DOOLITTLE said that the canal would be about one mile and a half long, and save one hundred and fifty miles of navigation in the round trip from Chicago. The bill was passed.

The consideration of the Internal Revenue bill was considered, as in Committee of the Whole—the pending question being on Mr. Collamer's amendment to apportion the number of assessors and collectors according to the number of members of Congress from each State and by Congressional districts, as in the old act, instead of allowing their appointment to districts set off at the discretion of the President, &c. The amendment was adopted.

Other amendments were offered, and the bill occupied the Senate till half past ten o'clock at night. The section relating to the income tax was amended so as to impose a tax of seven and a half per cent. on all incomes over \$5,000. The proviso imposing a tax of one-half of one per cent. a month upon bank circulation beyond the amount of ninety per cent. of capital was reformed—yeas 23, nays 9. The bill was at length passed—yeas 28, nays Messrs. Davis, Hendricks, and Powell.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a bill was introduced by Mr. FENTON extending the time for opening the subscription books of the Union Gas Light Company of the city of Washington and for other purposes, which was referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

Mr. HURBARD asked leave to introduce a resolution instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to report a bill to repeal all acts and parts of acts for the rendition of fugitive slaves. Objection was made; and so the resolution went over.

Mr. GARFIELD, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill granting commanders of departments or officers of divisions power summarily to punish guerrillas, violators of the laws and customs of war, thieves, &c.

Mr. ELDRIDGE moved to lay this bill upon the table. The motion was rejected—yeas 35, nays 67—and the bill was then passed.

Mr. WILSON, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported back the Senate bill defining the eastern and western judicial districts of Virginia, and it was passed.

The Senate bill prohibiting, under fine and imprisonment, members of Congress and heads of Departments, chiefs of bureaus and clerks, from receiving money in consideration of outside business transactions, was taken up and passed.

Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland, moved a suspension of the rules in order to enable him to make a report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs sustaining its former action in declining against French interference in the affairs of Mexico. But the House disagreed to the motion.

Mr. MORRIS, of New York, reported a bill to repeal all fugitive slave laws. The opposition side of the House resisted action upon the bill at this time; so, by way of compromise, the bill was made the special order for next Monday.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1864.

In the SENATE a number of petitions were presented by Mr. SUMNER for the abolition of slavery by act of Congress. They were referred to the Committee on Slavery and Freedmen.

Mr. GRIMES, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported back, without amendment, the bill authorizing the Levy Court of the county of Washington to levy a direct tax on the people of the county for their portion of the Government tax under the act of Congress of July, 1861.

Mr. POMEROY, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back a bill for granting lands to Minnesota, and also one to grant lands to Dakota, and recommended their postponement until December. The report was agreed to.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported on the subject of amending the neutrality laws, asking to be discharged from its further consideration; which was agreed to.

Mr. CORNELL called up the bill concerning lands in California. It confirms, as far as the United States may do so, the Mexican title to lands at Santa Barbara, granted to the Roman Catholic Church for educational purposes, the Archbishop of California to have the disposition of the lands. The bill elicited considerable discussion, it being contended on one side that only the State of California, and not the United States, had power to act in the matter, and on the other that as the United States became the custodian of the original trusts by the acquisition of the territory from Mexico, it was competent and necessary for it to make confirmation, and change the direction of the trust from the Bishop of Monterey to that of California. The bill was passed—yeas 20, nays 13.

The Senate, at three o'clock, went into Executive session, and shortly afterwards adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a bill was reported by Mr. HOOPER, from the Committee of Ways and Means, which proposes to provide money for the support of the Government by means of a \$9,000,000 loan. The bill was ordered to be printed, and recommitted to the Committee of Ways and Means, with power to report at any time after Monday.

The House resumed the consideration of the Senate gold bill, proposing to prohibit speculations in coin and bullion. Mr. HOOPER offered an amendment as a substitute for the first section. Messrs. GANSEN, DAVIS, PENNINGTON, and WOODBRIDGE, of Vermont, opposed the bill. They contended that there was no constitutional power to pass it. The bill was laid on the table: yeas 63, nays 47. A motion to reconsider this vote was made, and postponed until Saturday.

The House debated and then non-concurred in the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing amendments to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill. Another committee of conference was asked.

After further proceedings of no particular interest, the House, at four o'clock, adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1864.

In the SENATE a favorable report was made by Mr. ANTHONY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, on the bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to sell the hospital grounds at Chicago and purchase a new site.

Mr. HARLAN called up the bill to enable the trustees of Blue Mount College to perfect the title to their lands, and it was passed.

Mr. DAVIS rose to a question of privilege, and read a letter from Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, addressed to himself, as follows:

HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, JUNE 3, 1864.
GARRETT DAVIS, Esq., Member of the Senate, &c.
SIR: I have read your resolution of inquiry. You can do me no greater favor than to have every act of my political life, which began on the first Tuesday of November, 1859, and ended on the 15th day of April, 1864, most thoroughly scrutinized. I will thank you also to have every act of my official life, which began as Brigadier General of the Massachusetts militia April 16, 1861, and will end when this war does, if not sooner, subjected to the like examination. I have no favors to ask, but one act of justice—that the inquiry may not be *ex parte*, that is, one-sided.
Your obedient servant,
BENJ. F. BUTLER.

As Mr. DAVIS remarked that this letter was in terms such as any man, conscious of his innocence, would use. The terms of the letter were calculated to increase his estimation of Gen. Butler, as they make an appearance of *prima facie* evidence in his favor. Gen. Butler may be innocent of the charges contained in his (Mr. DAVIS's) resolution. He had no personal prejudice against that General, and, as he would of any one else; and he thought every man should have the opportunity to prove his innocence. Gen. Butler has, of course, read the resolution, and writes his letter in view of its character. The resolution calls for a committee of three to investigate, and invests them with power to send for persons and papers. He understood Gen. Butler to have accepted the gauge just in the form it had been tendered. As a Senator and a man he felt perfectly competent to do Gen. Butler justice, according to the truth of his case. He therefore hoped the Senate would at once pass the resolution without debate and authorize proceedings in the matter in the manner designated.

Mr. DAVIS, at the request of Mr. HARRIS, refrained from pressing his resolution at the moment.

Mr. HARRIS called up the House bill to amend an act concerning certain private land claims in New Mexico. He explained that the Government had set aside a reservation of forty miles square, of which Fort Sumner is the center, for the Navajo and other Indians, and included in it was a large private location on the Pecos river, which it was desirable the heirs should locate now elsewhere, and which the bill authorizes. The bill was passed—yeas 21, nays 7.

Mr. TRUMBULL, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported back the bill in relation to the fees and emoluments of the marshal, attorney, and clerk of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, with an amendment as a substitute.

Mr. POWELL moved to suspend all prior orders, and take up the bill to prevent officers of the army and navy, and other persons engaged in the United States service from interfering in elections. The motion was rejected.